(d) whether any action has been taken on the basis of the report for modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports and 35 other non-metro airports by AAI; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee has submitted it's report on 1st December, 2005 and observed that the proposal submitted by the Joint Forum for Development of Delhi and Mumbai Airports are similar to that worked out by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in year 2003. Further, the Committee has also observed that if AAI has to undertake modernisation on its own, it requires considerable structural changes in the manpower system of AAI. Simultaneously, procedural changes are also required in the present system and methods being followed in AAI for expeditious decisions and execution. The Joint Forum has only stated that the workmen will undertake to improve the efficiency and productivity in general.

The Alternate Plan was also discussed with representatives of AAI's Employees Joint Forum on 30.1.2006 and it was intimated to them that the plan has been found to be not feasible.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

FDI in greenfield airports

1479. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open up 100 per cent FDI in greenfield airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner this will help in the creation of new airport facilities in non-metro cities, specially with reference to cities in the State of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the policy on Airport Infrastructure, promulgated by the Government in 1997, foreign equity participation in airport projects may be permitted upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission. Government has recently decided to allow FDI up to 100% for setting up greenfield airports projects.

(c) As per Aircraft Rules, 1937 airports may be owned by the Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), State Governments, Urban Local Bodies, Private Companies and Individuals. Since airports

are high-cost projects, allowing 100% FDI in airports would help in creation of new airports facilities. Creation of new airports facilities in the States like Orissa, etc. would, however, depend upon commercial viability of such projects.

Congestion in air traffic

1480. SHRI DHARAMPAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a huge increase in air traffic in recent months and it is becoming increasingly unmanageable for the staff and management of the airport authority which causes a huge risk of accidents too;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the air traffic situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The increase in total aircraft movements for the year 2004-05 is 11.9% over the total traffic handled in 2003-04. In the recent months (April - December) 2005-06, the air traffic (aircraft movements) has grown by 13.3% over the same period of 2004-05. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is managing the air traffic efficiently in accordance with the standard prescribed by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

(c) Various steps taken by AAI to reduce congestion at major airports *inter-alia* include construction of new high speed exit taxiways at Delhi and Mumbai, parallel taxi track at Delhi so as to reduce runway occupancy time and additional parking stands at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, procedures for simultaneous use of both runways at Delhi, cross runway operation at Mumbai, improved ATC procedures, implementation of Dedicated Clearance Delivery Position, ban on general aviation aircraft at Delhi and Mumbai during peak period, upgradation of ATC automation system at Delhi and Mumbai etc.

Special Purpose Vehicle for airports

1481. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle to develop airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the airports on the modernisation list?